

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT TOKYO 13600 ACTION SECSTATE DATED JUL 28:

QTE: S E C R E T TOKYO 13600

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JA, US, CH

SUBJECT: STATUS OF JAPAN-CHINA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS

1. SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER SONODA JULY 27 GAVE
AMBASSADOR STATUS REPORT ON JAPAN-PRC TREATY NEGOTIATIONS.
HE RECALLED HIS RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH FRENCH AND BRITISH,
NOTING EUROPEANS' INCREASED INTEREST IN ARMS SALES AND IN
DEVELOPING THEIR LONG-TERM ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH PRC.
ON PFT NEGOTIATIONS, HE SAID THEY WERE PROCEEDING ABOUT
AS JAPAN HAD EXPECTED WITH CHINESE STILL ASKING FOR AGREE-
MENT ON HEGEMONY PRINCIPLES FIRST. TALKS NOW IN RECESS

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TO PERMIT CHINESE TO COORDINATE THEIR VIEWS. SONODA
TAKING PATIENT VIEW, BELIEVING TREND IS TOWARD CONCLUSION
OF TREATY BUT HE IS NOT RUSHING TO GO TO PEKING. END
SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION OF SONODA'S IMPRESSION OF BONN
SUMMIT, AMBASSADOR ASKED FOR RUN-DOWN ON STATUS OF DIS-

CUSSIONS WITH PRC ON PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY.

3. SONODA REPLIED THAT DURING HIS VISIT TO EUROPE THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD HIM FRANCE PLANNED TO SUPPLY DEFENSIVE ARMS TO PRC. SONODA NOTED WRYLTY THAT HE HAD ASKED WHETHER THEY MEANT ANTI-TANK WEAPONS. THE FRENCH REPLIED AFFIRMATIVELY, AND SAID THEY WOULD SOON ANNOUNCE A PLANNED REVIEW OF THEIR TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH PRC WHICH WOULD FACILITATE ARMS SALES. THE BRITISH FOREIGN MINISTER HAD TOLD HIM THAT THEY ARE ALSO BEING APPROACHED BY THE CHINESE AND HE ASKED WHETHER THIS WOULD CAUSE DIFFICULTIES FOR JAPAN. SONODA SAID HE HAD REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE AND ENCOURAGED THE BRITISH TO PURSUE BILATERAL TALKS WITH THE PRC.

4. SONODA SAID HIS OWN IMPRESSION WAS THAT SINCE THE BRZEZINSKI TRIP THE PATTERN HAD BEEN CONSTANT. HE SAID HE FELT THAT THE EUROPEANS WERE INTERESTED IN ARMS SALES BUT THAT THEY ALSO WANTED LONG-TERM TRADE ARRANGEMENTS INCLUDING LOANS AND JOINT VENTURES. HE SAID HE FELT THE U.S. AND JAPAN SHOULD TAKE DUE NOTE OF THIS EUROPE-CHINA DEVELOPMENT. HE SAID THAT HE BELIEVED CHINA, WHILE APPROACHING BOTH JAPAN AND U.S. ON DEVELOPMENT OF OIL RESOURCES, HAD ALSO APPROACHED EUROPEANS AND WANTED TO DEAL WITH WHOMEVER FURNISHED THE BEST TERMS. SONODA SAID HE SHOULD NOT FORGET ROLE OF HONG KONG; IMPORTANT FOR OBTAIN-
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ING INFORMATION ABOUT CHINA AND ALSO, POTENTIALLY, AS A TRANSFER POINT FOR ARMS.

5. TURNING TO THE PFT NEGOTIATIONS HE NOTED THAT SINCE THAT STARTED ON JULY 21 THEY WERE PROCEEDING IN THE DIRECTION AND THE TIMING THAT JAPAN EXPECTED. SATO HAD TOLD CHINESE THAT U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONS HAVE TOP PRIORITY IN JAPANESE FOREIGN POLICY. SONODA SAID THE CHINESE SAID THEY UNDERSTOOD AND APPRECIATED JAPAN'S POSITION AND TOOK VIEW THAT JAPANESE-CHINESE RELATIONS HAD SECOND PRIORITY. SONODA SAID JAPAN HAD MADE CLEAR IT DID NOT LOOK UPON SOVIET UNION AS ENEMY. THE CHINESE HAD RESPONDED THAT SINCE SOVIETS CONTROLLED NORTHERN TERRITORIES AND HAD INTRUDED IN JAPANESE WATERS, THEIR ACTIVITIES APPEARED HEGEMONIC.

6. SONODA SAID JAPAN HAD PRESENTED ITS DRAFT OF PFT, AND CHINA HAD PRESENTED ITS VIEWS ON DRAFT. A HEGEMONY CLAUSE HAD BEEN INCLUDED BUT CHINESE WANTED MORE EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO SOVIETS; THUS MORE DISCUSSION WAS NEEDED. SATO HAD SUGGESTED THAT OTHER ASPECTS OF TREATY SHOULD BE DISCUSSED FIRST, BUT CHINESE WISHED TO ADDRESS HEGEMONY

ISSUE FIRST. TALKS WERE THEREFORE NOW IN RECESS, GIVING CHINESE TIME TO COORDINATE THEIR INTERNAL VIEWS. SONODA BELIEVES THE CHINESE HAVE A DESIRE TO CONCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS BUT THAT IT IS STILL DIFFICULT TO SEE THE OUTCOME. FOR ITS PART, JAPAN HAD HAD TO CONSULT WITHIN LDP. WHEN JAPAN'S NEGOTIATORS RETURNED HOME TO REPORT TO PRIME MINISTER, HE WOULD MAKE FINAL DECISION AS TO WHETHER SONODA WOULD GO TO PEKING.

7. SONODA SAID CHINA HAD ASKED THAT DETAILS OF NEGOTIATIONS NOT BE PUBLICIZED. HE SAID HE BELIEVED THIS REFLECTED POSSIBILITY OF FACTIONAL DIFFERENCES WITHIN PRC LEADERSHIP WITH RESPECT TO PFT. HE OBSERVED THAT IF CHOU EN-LAI WERE ALIVE, NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE SMOOTHER.

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8. SONODA SAID HE BELIEVED THAT THEY WERE MOVING IN THE DIRECTION OF A TREATY, BUT AS TO SHAPE OF SOLUTION IT WAS WISE TO BE PATIENT. AMBASSADOR SATO WAS DOING A GOOD JOB AND SONODA DID NOT PROPOSE TO RUSH TO CHINA BUT RATHER TO WAIT AND WATCH CLOSELY. IN CLOSING, SONODA NOTED HE HAD GIVEN US MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE NEGOTIATIONS THEN HE HAD THE PRIME MINISTER.

9. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PASS ALL OR PARTS THIS MESSAGE TO PEKING, HONG KONG, PARIS, LONDON, AND BONN.

MANSFIELD

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